

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
Serial No. 09/921,588
Page 4 of 5

REMARKS

This response is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed on November 17, 2005.

SPECIFICATION

The Applicants have amended paragraph [0015] to correctly identify the *Birang et al.* application.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claims 1-9, 12-22, 30-33 and 35-39 stand rejected as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,679,063 to *Kimura, et al.* ("*Kimura*"). Claims 10-11 stand rejected as being unpatentable over *Kimura* in view of United States Patent Publication No. US2002/0016136 to *Birang et al.* or the Applicant's Admitted Prior Art. Claim 34 stands rejected as being unpatentable over *Kimura* in view of United States Patent No. 6,139,406 to *Kennedy et al.* In response, the Applicants have cancelled claims 1-22 and 30-39 without prejudice to expedite issuance of the allowable subject matter. The Applicants reserve the right to further prosecute the cancelled subject matter in continuing applications.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 23-27 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicants submit that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.


RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Serial No. 09/921,588

Page 5 of 5

If the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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